

Introduction to the Common Core of Data (CCD)

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Welcome to the training modules for the Common Core of Data, also known as CCD. In this module, you will learn about the information available from the CCD. This includes an introduction to the study's design, universe, and the methods of data collection. The module also includes a broad overview of the topics for which data are collected and available for analysis.

Those interested in using data from the CCD should view each module in the training series prior to conducting any analyses. This training series allows you to access the modules in any order. However, the most effective way to proceed is to view the modules in the order presented, as some information in later modules builds on information presented in earlier modules.

For a general orientation to the dataset training system and a description of the functionality and navigation of the Distance Learning Dataset Training, or DLDT, you may click the 'Help' button at the bottom of the screen, or refer to the module titled "Introduction to the NCES Distance Learning Dataset Training System," which can be accessed from the landing page.

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The Common Core of Data (CCD) is a program of the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics that annually collects fiscal and non-fiscal data about all public schools, public school districts and state education agencies in the United States. The CCD is a universe collection, meaning that the data are collected concerning all public elementary and secondary schools, all local education agencies, and all state education agencies throughout the United States. CCD contains three categories of information: general descriptive information on schools and school districts; data on students and staff; and fiscal data. The Common Core of Data (CCD) is the Department of Education's largest database on public elementary and secondary education in the United States.

Note that individual student-level data are not available through the CCD.

The CCD home page may be accessed by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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CCD is a comprehensive, annual, national statistical database of all public elementary and secondary schools and school districts, which contains data that are designed to be comparable across all states.

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The data are supplied by state education agency officials and include information that describes schools and school districts, including name, address, and phone number; descriptive information about students and staff, including demographics; and fiscal data, including revenues and current expenditures.

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The objectives of the CCD are twofold: first, to provide an official listing of public elementary and secondary schools and school districts in the nation, that can be used to select samples for other NCES surveys. And second, to provide basic information and descriptive statistics on public elementary and secondary schools and schooling in general.

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The CCD survey annually collects data about all public elementary and secondary schools, all local education agencies (LEAs), and all state education agencies (SEAs) throughout the United States. CCD contains three categories of information: general descriptive information on schools and school districts; data on students and staff; and fiscal data. The general descriptive information includes name, address, phone number, and type of locale; the data on students and staff include selected demographic characteristics; and the fiscal data cover revenues and current expenditures.

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The CCD contains universe data. Universe data include information from each entity as opposed to a sample of schools or districts. The CCD is made up of a set of five surveys sent to state education departments: the Public School Universe Survey, Local Education Agency (School District) Universe Survey, State Aggregate Nonfiscal Data Survey, State Aggregate Fiscal Data, and School District Fiscal Data. These surveys collect the information that makes up the CCD. Each survey collects a different level of data and will be described in the module titled, 'Data Collected Through the Common Core of Data (CCD).' CCD data are accessible through the Elementary/Secondary Information System (EISi) and public data files for researchers to learn about all schools in the U.S. These will be described in detail in the module titled, 'Using Elementary/Secondary Information System (EISi) to Access CCD Data.'

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Most of the data are obtained from administrative records maintained by the state education agencies (SEAs). Statistical information is collected annually from approximately 100,000 public elementary and secondary schools and approximately 18,000 public school districts (including supervisory unions and regional education service agencies) in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, five U.S. Island Areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and schools supported by the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE). The SEAs compile CCD requested data into prescribed formats and transmit the information to NCES.

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The Public School Universe Survey collects information on all public elementary and secondary schools in operation during a school year including school location and type, enrollment by grade and student characteristics, and the number of classroom teachers.

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The Local Education Agency (School District) Universe Survey collects information for the universe of LEAs including phone number, location and type of agency, current number of students, and number of high school graduates and completers in the previous year.

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The State Aggregate Nonfiscal Data Survey collects information on all students and staff aggregated to the state level including number of students by grade level, full-time equivalent staff by major employment category, and high school graduates and completers in the previous year.

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The State Aggregate Fiscal Data Survey collects detailed data aggregated to the state level including average daily attendance, school district revenues by source (local, state, and federal), and expenditures by function (instruction, support services, and non-instruction) and subfunction (school administration, etc.).

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The School District Fiscal Data Survey collects detailed data by school district, including revenues by source and expenditures by function and subfunction, and enrollment of expenditure for education and expenditure per pupil.

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The five data sets within CCD can be used separately or in conjunction with one another to provide information on many topics of interest. Examples of CCD data that could be used to address important education issues are size of school and pupil/teacher ratio, size of school district and region of the country, locale of school and racial/ethnic composition for selected states, racial/ethnic composition and pupil/teacher ratio for selected states, locale of school and percent of free-lunch eligible students for selected states; grade level and pupil/teacher ratio, size of school district and number of special education students, graduates, and state share of expenditure for education and expenditure per pupil.

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The Common Core of Data are accessible from a number of resources. First, a Frequently Asked Questions (or FAQ) Quick Facts resource is available and addresses commonly asked questions users have about public elementary and secondary

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education. The Annual publications link offers users a variety of resources including school and agency reports, state nonfiscal reports, district fiscal reports, state fiscal reports, and dropouts, completers, and graduation rate reports. An online bibliography search tool is also available that allows researchers to search for journal articles that have been published using data from 18 research programs conducted by NCES. CCD Data files are available for access to the actual data. In addition, data tables are also offered. Finally, the Elementary/Secondary Information System (or, ELSi) is available to allow users to quickly view public and private school data and create custom tables and charts using CCD data.

Users may review any of these resources by clicking the corresponding underlined screen text.

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This module has provided you with an introduction to the CCD and described the study's design, universe, and the methods of data collection. Additionally, this module has highlighted topics for which data are available for analyses.

The subsequent CCD training modules contained within this system discuss some of these topics in greater detail and address questions about how to access the CCD data files and effectively use the data for your analytic purposes.

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Important resources that have been provided throughout the module are summarized in this slide along with the module's objectives for your reference.

You may now proceed to the next module in the series, or click the exit button to return to the landing page.